

REMARKS

This paper is a preliminary amendment in the above-titled application, filed herewith as a divisional of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/978,451, filed October 17, 2001, which claims priority to French Application No. FR 00/13424, filed October 18, 2000.

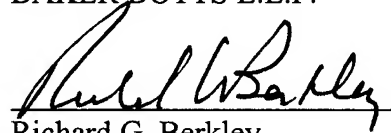
By this amendment, original claims 1-11 have been cancelled. Claims 12-18 are pending. Claims 13-18 have been amended to place the claims in proper U.S. format.

Applicants request an early and favorable decision on Claims 12-18.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

By:



Richard G. Berkley
Patent Office Reg. No. 25,465

Kimberly J. McGraw
Patent Office Reg. No. 50,994

30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, NY 10012-4498
Attorneys for Applicants
212-408-2500